

[52433/639]

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of FUJII, Hideki,  
MURAYAMA, Masatoshi

Serial No. Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date Herewith

Title HIGH STRENGTH  $\alpha + \beta$  TYPE TITANIUM ALLOY TUBE  
AND PRODUCTION METHOD THEREFOR

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**In the title:**

--(Amended) HIGH STRENGTH  $\alpha + \beta$  TYPE TITANIUM ALLOY TUBE AND  
PRODUCTION METHOD THEREFOR--

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claim ~~6~~ and claims 10-~~15~~ without prejudice.

Please add the following claims:

21  
~~16~~. (New) A high strength  $\alpha + \beta$  titanium alloy pipe as set forth in claim 1, wherein  
the pipe as a whole is comprised of a  $\beta$ -annealed structure.

22  
~~17~~. (New) A method of production of a high strength  $\alpha + \beta$  titanium alloy pipe as  
set forth in claim 7, characterized by arranging the tubular shaped member so  
that the abutted plate edges come to the top and welding from the top of the  
outside of the tubular shaped member.

23  
~~18~~. (New) A method of production of a high strength  $\alpha + \beta$  titanium alloy pipe as  
set forth in claim 7, characterized by arranging the tubular shaped member so  
that the abutted plate edges come to the bottom and welding from the top of  
the inside of the tubular shaped member.

24  
~~19~~. (New) A method of production of a high strength  $\alpha + \beta$  titanium alloy pipe as  
set forth in claim 7, characterized in that part or all of a pilot gas and shield gas  
used for the welding is helium gas.

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